

Remarks

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the accompanying Declaration by Professor Brian Paul, the foregoing amendments, and the following remarks.

Claims 1-2, 4, 14-15, 23, 28, 31-32, 39, 40, 43 and 45 previously were rejected as allegedly being anticipated by a document entitled "Intermetallic Microlaminations for High-Temperature Microreactors," hereinafter Paul I. Paul I does not constitute prior art under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) to this application and is the inventor's own work. The present application claims the benefit of the earlier filing date of U.S. provisional application No. 60/455,735, which was filed on March 17, 2003. The information of Paul I was not disseminated as a printed publication until November of 2002. To support this conclusion, accompanying this response is a Declaration by Professor Brian Paul that specifically addresses each of questions a-d as raised in the Office Communication dated November 7, 2008.

More pertinent however, applicants have amended independent claim 1 to include additional features that are not taught by Paul I. Specifically, claim 1 has been amended to state that the stack includes a bonding material between an intermetallic layer and an adjacent layer. In order for the invention to produce a working device, the individual lamina are bonded together in a manner that maintains functionality, such as by not occluding microchannels, and that effectively bonds the device to form a structurally cohesive unit. Solving this bonding problem was not a trivial step. As a result, the features of independent claim 1 are not taught or suggested by Paul I.

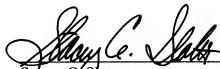
Paul I is not properly cited as prior art against the present application. However, even if it does constitute prior art to this application, this is largely irrelevant. The features of independent claim 1 are not taught or suggested by Paul I.

The present application is in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
KLARQUIST SPARKMAN, LLP

One World Trade Center, Suite 1600
121 S.W. Salmon Street
Portland, Oregon 97204
Telephone: (503) 595-5300
Facsimile: (503) 595-5301

By


Stacey C. Slater
Registration No. 36,011